



Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

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Independent Review to Guide Election Improvements

The state's first foray into electronic voting, a requirement of the federal Help America Vote Act, proved less troublesome for Arkansas voters than many expected, but behind the scenes, election officials met with significant challenges as they prepared for the primary election.

Election Day presented difficulties for poll workers using the technology for the first time. The process of preparing the new machines and tabulating results from a mixture of both old and new technologies meant delays in starting and finishing the election process and caused frustration among state and local election officials. While most election officials agreed that implementing HAVA would be a challenge, most also agree that improvement is needed in the process before the November elections.

A formal analysis of Arkansas's primary election process found that poor project planning, organization and management by the state's voting system vendor resulted in late equipment delivery and repeated errors in programming that delayed tabulation in several counties and caused widespread frustration among the state's election officials.

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels commissioned the report immediately following the state's May 23 primary. Incorporating documentation and interviews from state and local election officials and the voting system vendor, the report contained 19 findings related to project management and suggested specific recommendations for improvement. The analysis was conducted by InfoSENTRY Services, Inc., an independent information technology services firm based in Raleigh, N.C. Company representatives presented their findings July 20 to a bipartisan Voting System Performance Review Committee.

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Secretary of State Election Coordinator Reba Cauley and Mark Kelley of ES&S respond to county issues on May 23.

More Businesses Meet Deadline in 2006

The Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services Division reported 83 percent of Arkansas businesses filed franchise tax and annual reports by the May 1 deadline, up 23 percent from last year.

Almost 98,000 forms were sent to corporations for annual reports. Of those, 80,869 met the deadline, with more filing the report and franchise tax every day.

More corporations are forming in Arkansas, as the state saw a two percent

increase in the number of businesses filing articles of incorporation in 2005, over the number filed in 2004.

Over \$10 million has gone to Arkansas Educational Adequacy Trust fund by the end of the 2006 fiscal year.

For more information about corporate franchise taxes, call the Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services Division at (501) 682-3409 or log on to www.sos.arkansas.gov.



Our first outing with the state's new electronic equipment proved to be a learning experience for all involved, to say the least. In the weeks prior to May 23, we faced delays in equipment delivery, ballot printing and software programming from our vendor, Elections Systems & Software, that placed an inexcusable burden on our local election officials.

While the behind-the-scenes process of conducting the primary election may not have been satisfactory, what I am very pleased about is the performance of the voting machines themselves.

Overwhelmingly, the voters who used touch-screen machines found the instructions simple to follow, the large print easy to read and – thanks to re-counts that verified the totals – the results accurately counted. Those factors, to me, are the most important measure of a successful election. That is a firm foundation on which we can build as we move toward the full system roll out for the November 7 General Election.

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I am encouraged by the marked changes ES&S showed in the few weeks between the primary and run off elections. Their staff continues to make progress in their project management plan and in improved communications with our office and county officials. Findings in the independent review performed by InfoSENTRY Services along with recommendations by a bipartisan Election Review Committee will give us a very clear blueprint for making our new voting system work to its fullest potential.

I must commend our local election commissioners, county election coordinators and county clerks for their perseverance and hard work during the primary, as well as for their invaluable input in the subsequent review process. They have overcome many challenges in order to take hold of the new technology and make it work well for the voters. Just as I am, they remain committed to providing accessible and accurate voting technology for our state, and they are the real key to making the Help America Vote Act a reality in Arkansas. I have no doubt that we'll see that happen November 7.

Let Us Know!

Need a Speaker?

The Secretary of State offers specialized programs for students, civic groups, businesses and others. To schedule a speaker for your group, call (501) 683-3702 or e-mail speaker@sos.arkansas.gov.

Need to Update?

If you receive duplicate issues of this newsletter, need to change your address or wish to receive future issues electronically call (501) 682-3470 or e-mail arsos@sos.arkansas.gov with the subject line "subscribeCR."

REVIEW(Cont. from front page)

InfoSENTRY consultant Glenn Newkirk found problems with project planning and communication, but the voting technology itself worked well, and voters liked using it. "We see no reason that Arkansas' statewide voting system...cannot move forward to a successful general election," Newkirk said.

The key areas of focus in the report were project planning, organization, and management; meetings and meeting management; testing and test management; documentation management; risk management and issue tracking; training and communications; and comments made by the counties.

During the committee presentation, discussion focused largely on findings under "Project Planning, Organization, and Management." This finding states "[Election Systems and Software] ES&S did not commit adequate resources to the Arkansas voting system project until after other states' elections concluded [even when those other state's contracts were signed after Arkansas's], which was too late to allow sufficient testing, sufficient equipment programming, and ballot printing to meet critical early voting, absentee, and Election Day deadlines." In response to this finding, the report recommends, "ES&S...document to the State the names of every person at ES&S working on any component of the Arkansas voting system implementation project."

Daniels called the report "thorough and complete," adding that it reflects the nationwide challenges HAVA has placed on election officials and the few voting system vendors available to them. "The recommendations in this report provide a sound blueprint for correcting issues Arkansas experienced during the primary, and we will hold our vendor accountable for implementing those recommendations," Secretary Daniels said.

ES&S responded with documentary evidence that many of the recommendations in the report have been implemented since the primary election and agreed to implement the remaining recommendations moving forward for November. ES&S President and CEO Aldo Tesi addressed the committee and pledged ES&S's support and cooperation "to improve the level of service we are providing to our Arkansas customers."

The committee accepted InfoSENTRY's report on July 31, with the Secretary of State's office and ES&S's responses as addenda. Committee members present at the meeting were Carroll Garner, Chair, State Board of Election Commissioners; Senator Steve Faris of Malvern; Rep. Jim Medley of Fort Smith; Sarah Agee, Governor's office; Tim Humphries, staff attorney for the Secretary of State's office; Kent Walker, Pulaski County Election Commission; Jim Gandy, Boone County Election Commission; and Faron Ledbetter, President, of the Arkansas County Clerks Association.

Students Become Leaders for a Day



Chelsey Freeman, a senior at Forrest City High School, (left) was named Secretary of State at Girls State at Harding University in Searcy. Joe French, a senior at J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock, (right) was named Secretary of State



at Boys State at University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Both Freeman and French had an opportunity to visit with Secretary Daniels and get a first-hand look at the duties of the office.

America's First Resort Celebrated in Capitol Exhibit

In 1832, Arkansas Territory's congressional delegate Ambrose Sevier persuaded Congress to set aside "the hot springs lying on the Washita river," and the contiguous of land surrounding them, "for the future disposal of the United States... not [to be] entered, located, or appropriated for any other purpose whatsoever." Signed by President Andrew Jackson on April 20 1832, the act created the Hot Springs Reservation, the predecessor of today's Hot Springs National Park. In 2007, Hot Springs National Park will celebrate its 175th anniversary, an event being previewed in a summer exhibit at the Arkansas State Capitol.

The exhibit, *Savoring the Waters: The Early Years at Uncle Sam's Spa*, highlights the early days of the national park as it developed into the health resort and playground for the famous, the infamous and tens of thousands of other health-seekers.

Produced in collaboration with Hot Springs National Park, *Savoring the Waters* features enlargements of rare images drawn from stereo images sold to tourists and townspeople alike in the decades following the Civil War. They offer views of undeveloped spring-fed pools, camps of impoverished health-seekers, early bathhouses and their elegant Victorian replacements.

Vintage postcards, signs, exercise equipment and architectural details bring the city's story into the first decades of the Twentieth century, when the eight surviving spas on Bath House Row were erected.

Savoring The Waters: The Early years at Uncle Sam's Spa will remain on view through August in the first-floor galleries of the Arkansas Capitol. The Capitol is open seven days a week, 7 to 6 on weekdays, 10-3 on weekends, and there is no admission charge. For more information, contact Natasha Naragon at (501) 682-1010.



Capitol Quest Has Successful Debut

Is that column Ionic or Corinthian? How many steps are there? What's the difference between a balcony and a gallery? Students find the answers to these questions and many more on a new adventure through their Capitol.

Capitol Quest, an architectural scavenger hunt of the State Capitol building, had a successful start in April, when more than 200 sixth graders from Pulaski Heights Middle School

in Little Rock were the first participants in the new educational program.

After months of planning, including a test run by students from Gibbs International Magnet Elementary in Little Rock, *Capitol Quest* proved a success, evidenced by both student reviews and their visible excitement while exploring the Capitol halls.

Teachers serve as guides for the program, reading information and clues to their student explorers. Students then answer questions in their illustrated workbooks by observing different features of the Capitol and using compasses to navigate through the historic structure.

Capitol Quest is a self-guided, educational tour program that introduces students in fifth through eighth grades to the basics of architecture and the architectural elements found in the State Capitol Building. Teachers interested in learning more about the *Capitol Quest* program can call Ann Clements, education coordinator, at (501) 682-3472. Teachers interested in booking the *Capitol Quest* program can call Judi Dietz, capitol tour director, at (501) 682-5080.



Students from Pulaski Heights Middle School embark on their *Capitol Quest*.

Campaign Urges Arkansans to 'Vote Naturally'

It's the accurate, accessible way to vote in the Natural State — that's the message of a voter education campaign Secretary of State Charlie Daniels launched in April to introduce Arkansans to new touch-screen voting machines.

"Vote Naturally" is a voter education initiative that's designed to make voter information readily available to all Arkansans in light of the sweeping changes required under the Help America Vote Act. Through printed materials, public presentations and Internet resources, the "Vote Naturally" campaign gives voters an up-close look at new touch-screen voting machines now used across Arkansas and provides details on their voting rights and responsibilities.



At the heart of the campaign is a new website, www.VoteNaturally.org, that provides answers to common questions about HAVA and provides an overview of the voting equipment used in each county. Step-by-step instructions and videos walk visitors through the process of casting their electronic ballot. Secretary of State staffers are traveling the state to demonstrate the iVotronic voting machines, appearing at festivals, special events, schools and other public venues. To learn more about the program or schedule a demonstration for your group, visit the www.VoteNaturally.org.

Daniels Helps Honor Scottish Rite Citizen of the Year



Secretary of State Charlie Daniels helped honor Arkansas Scottish Rite Citizen of the Year Judge William Enfield during an April 28 ceremony in Little Rock. Daniels (center) was welcomed as a special guest by Dwane F. Treat, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Arkansas (right). After sharing a few remarks at the luncheon, Daniels presented Judge Enfield (seated at left) with a Capitol Citation honoring his contributions to the state during his role as attorney to Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and then in his 20-year term as circuit judge in northwest Arkansas.

Administration Welcomes New Staff



Natasha Naragon has joined the Secretary of State's staff as public affairs coordinator. Naragon will serve as the primary media spokesperson for the Secretary of State's Office. She has previously worked as press secretary and district scheduler for Congressman Vic Snyder. Naragon earned her bachelor's degree in politics from Hendrix College.

Lori A. McElroy has been named photography manager and will serve the Secretary of State's office and State Legislature. McElroy worked as a photojournalist for five different newspapers for a total of 12 years and was a photographer in the Governor's office for nearly eight years, serving Governors Jim Guy Tucker and Mike Huckabee. She succeeds Gerald Butler, who retired in May.



Summer Intern Program

A number of young Arkansans who served internships with the Arkansas Secretary of State's office. Pictured with Secretary of State Charlie Daniels (front left) are: (first row) Jessica Sanchez, Ryan Green, Ryan Todd, Nick Sanson, Chase Daneshamandi, (second row) Blair Sybert, B. J. Webster, William Douthard, Angel Harris, (third row), Shannetta Allen, Bryan Griffith, Alyssa Oates, Greg Hunt, Gregory Steinsiek, Chad Brown, (back row), Jermain Poindexter, Mitchell Dedman, Martha Nicholas and André Rogers.



Stone Restoration Continues On Capitol Dome

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels began the second step in the restoration and repair of the Arkansas State Capitol on March 12 when scaffolding went into place on the dome. Since then, contractors have been busy doing the much-needed repair work to improve the dome.

Crews have worked to remove organic matter and pollutants that had penetrated the stone and blackened surface areas. Craftsmen have also replaced missing decorative elements such as stone garlands, Grecian-style scrollwork and pinecone medallions that had deteriorated over the decades.

To address the damage and discoloration that has occurred since the last dome restoration was done in the late 1960's, the contractors have applied a stone-based mineral coating, used on older buildings in Europe, to enhance and preserve the beauty of the stone.

The restoration and repair project is being done in three phases. Now that work on the dome is complete, the

scaffolding will be removed and put into place on the north façade, then the dome platform.

In 2005, the Office of Secretary of State received a \$1 million grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) for the restoration project. Recently, the Secretary of State's office received another grant from ANCRC for \$478,000 for work on the north façade. Roberts-McNutt Waterproofing/Roofing of North Little Rock is the contractor for the project. Clements and Associates of North Little Rock are the architects.

"The improvements to our Capitol building are progressing well, and I think Arkansans will be pleased with the results," said Secretary Daniels. "I am committed to preserving the beauty of our State Capitol to ensure the safety and integrity of this magnificent structure," Daniels added.



Samples of the condition of the Capitol dome before restoration (left) and after (right).

Capitol Learning Lab Goes on the Road

This summer, teachers around the state have learned how the State Capitol can be their classroom. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels sponsored workshops that provide an overview of the educational materials and resources available from the Secretary of State's office. Highlights included voter education curriculum for K-12 grades, programs for upper grade levels and a new teacher information CD-ROM with downloadable PDF files of Secretary of State education publications.

Teachers learned about the State Capitol and the free resources available for use in the classroom. The agenda included subjects like "How to Make the Most of Your Capitol Field Trip," which is a PowerPoint

production that gives basic tour information on enhancing the tour experience. "Beyond State Symbol Activity Books," provided an overview of programs and specialized tours with tips on how to schedule "extras" while taking the tour. Also explained was the office's education website, www.soskids.arkansas.gov, which is a one-stop resource for civics, government and educational materials.

Over the summer, workshops were held on-site in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Walnut Ridge, Plumerville and Malvern. For more information, teachers can contact Jennifer Schaffner at (501) 682-3025 or Jennifer.schaffner@sos.arkansas.gov or their local cooperative.

State Capitol, Bath House Row: Architectural Cousins

Two architects were responsible for designing the State Capitol: George Mann, who was “invited to resign” in 1909, and Cass Gilbert, the New York architect who redesigned the building’s interior and saw it to completion.

George Mann did not simply fade away after leaving the Capitol project, but remained in Little Rock as a partner in Mann & Stern, a firm that designed structures throughout the Midsouth.

One such project was the Fordyce Bath House, built on the Hot Springs Reservation for railroad executive Colonel Samuel Fordyce. Fordyce owned The Palace, a Victorian-era spa at the formal entry gate to the federal reservation. Flanking the gate on the other side was the Maurice, another 1880s bathhouse.

In 1911, the Maurice was replaced with a modern, luxurious structure. In response, Mann & Stern were called upon to design a replacement for The Palace, which opened on January 1, 1912. Christened the Fordyce, the new bath was a model of Spanish Renaissance elegance, built of tapestry brick with terra-cotta trim. It attracted the “carriage trade”

away from the Maurice, just as the Maurice had done a year earlier to the Palace.

The owner of the Maurice’s answered by hiring his rival’s designers to upgrade his own facilities. They added a new sun porch on the front, art glass skylights, murals and the “Roycroft Den,” a club-like retreat and billiards room decorated with plaster grotesques, murals and Mission-style oak furniture. The Maurice re-opened to wide praise and, until its closure in 1974, remained a benchmark of luxury on Bath House Row.

Today, visitors to Hot Springs can see George Mann’s handiwork in the restored Fordyce bathhouse that now serves as a museum and park visitor center. The Maurice’s rehabilitation is currently underway, and details from Mann &

Stern’s early overhaul survive both in the building itself and in the National Park’s collections. Artifacts include the stained-glass skylights and relics from the Roycroft Den. The Capitol’s summer exhibit, *Savoring the Waters*, includes one of its plaster grotesques, evidence of George Mann’s post-Capitol contributions.



8-06

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